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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-16-15

June 27, 2016

**LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a General Permit as described in this notice and to hold a public hearing on the issuance of this permit. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

PERMIT CATEGORY: General Permit; Pesticide Applications to or Over State Surface Waters

GEOGRAPHIC REGION: Statewide (except within the boundaries of Indian Reservations)

FACILITIES: Owners/Operators of Pesticide Applications

RECEIVING WATER: Statewide

PERMIT NUMBER: MTG870000

The renewal of this Pesticide General Permit (PGP) will continue to provide statewide general permit coverage for owner/operators for the application of pesticide to or over state surface water, including near (such that the pesticide is unavoidably discharged into the surface water). The PGP is designed to cover pesticide applications in which it is unavoidable that some of the pesticides will be deposited in the water in order to effectively target pests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited **ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS July 29, 2016.** Comments may be directed to the DEQ Water Quality Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked **PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS July 29th** will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at

Public Notice No.: MT-16-15

June 27, 2016

Page 2 of 2

DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

A public hearing will be held on the draft discharge permit, the fact sheet, and the environmental assessment at 8:30 A.M. on July 28, 2016, in Room 45 of the Lee Metcalf Building located at 1520 E. 6th Avenue in Helena, Montana.

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

The State of Montana makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in state government. Persons needing an accommodation must notify Jenna Stamper no later than **July 15, 2016**, to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. You can call Jenna at 444-3080 or write to her at the address noted to make your request known.

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